

2014 NPS Weekly Waterbird Surveys: Red Rock Lake, St. Paul, MN

Ground counts observed from land/ shore throughout fall migration

Observers:

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SPECIES	10/3/14	10/9/14	10/17/14	10/23/14	10/30/14	11/7/14	11/14/14	11/21/14
SWANS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CANADA GEESE	113	223	255	163	280	212	250	-
OTHER GEESE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MALLARD	37	62	89	73	98	212	60	-
BLACK DUCK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PINTAIL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GADWALL	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-
WIGEON	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N. SHOVELER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BLUE-WINGED TEAL	18	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
GREEN-WINGED TEAL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WOOD DUCK	13	3	-	4	1	-	-	-
REDHEAD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CANVASBACK	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
RINGNECK	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
L. SCAUP	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
G. SCAUP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
C. GOLDENEYE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BUFFLEHEAD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
COMMON MERGANSER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HOODED MERGANSER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RUDDY DUCK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

DUCKS, GEESE & SWAN TOTALS	181	288	345	244	384	424	310	0
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PUDDLE DUCKS	68	65	90	77	104	212	60	0
DIVING DUCKS	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0

OTHER SPECIES								
AM. COOT	75	108	170	635	95	65	4	-
GREAT BLUE HERON	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
GREAT EGRET	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BALD EAGLE	2	2	2	1	-	1	-	-
RING-BILLED GULL	2	1	6	4	-	3	-	-
HERRING GULL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WHITE PELICAN	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PIED-BILLED GREBE	10	14	1	3	-	-	-	-
DB CORMORANT	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
OTHER SPECIES TOTAL	106	127	179	643	95	69	4	0

NOTES/WEATHER								
Start Time	9:00	9:30	9:26	8:45	9:45	9:25	9:15	9:00
End Time	10:05	11:07	10:49	10:05	11:15	10:12	9:45	9:05
Cloud Cover	100%	0%	100%	100%	100%	100%	10%	0%
Temperature (°F)	45	39	51	55	43	34	11	20
Other Notes		Also saw 1 kingfisher					Lake almost entirely frozen over, except north end	Lake entirely frozen over

Notes from the Field:

This is the 6th consecutive year the National Park Service has conducted weekly ground counts on Red Rock Lake, south of Downtown St. Paul, Minnesota. Observers saw little diversity and low numbers on Red Rock lake in 2014, similar to 2013. Red Rock Lake is a small riparian lake, surrounded by several industrial facilities and separated from the larger Pig's Eye Lake by an industrial service road. Red Rock Lake is one small piece of the greater Mississippi Flyway. Migrating ducks and waterbirds depend on quality habitat and clean water at sites like these for their successful spring and fall migrations.

An unusually long, warm fall and sudden onset of winter in early November might have influenced waterbird numbers on Red Rock Lake in 2014.

Special thanks to the 2014 waterbird volunteers who contributed over 25 hours of volunteer work and counted more than 3,000 birds in 7 survey days.